

Greetings!

Hey RecyCoolers! Well, it's that time of year again, isn't it? The air is getting cooler, the leaves are changing color and back-to-school supplies are in high demand. Speaking of back-to-school, I recently went shopping for clothes for the new school year. I had so much fun picking out new shirts, pants and shoes.

I got some really nice things. But do you know what the best thing about my new clothes is? They are all made out of recycled material! Yep, that's right, I bought shirts, jackets and even socks that are all made from recycled plastic bottles. Is that the coolest thing ever, or what?

On the first day of school, I wore my new clothes and all of my friends and classmates told me how much they liked them. When I told them they were made out of recycled plastic bottles, they couldn't believe it!

But, it's true. You can buy all kinds of things that are made out of recycled plastic bottles, even backpacks, park benches and toys. Do you know how you can tell if something is made out of recycled material? By checking the tag or label—if the product is made out of recycled content, it will tell you right there.

Buying products that are made out of recycled material is a great way to help the environment. When products are made out of recycled material, natural resources are conserved, energy is saved and our planet stays healthier. Since this is the only planet we have, we better take good care of it, right?

I hope you all had a great summer, as I did. It sure was hot this year in California, wasn't it? I kept myself cool and hydrated by drinking lots of extra water and juice each day. Of course, I saved all of my beverage containers and took them to the recycling center, where I turned them in for cash. With all of the extra money I earned, I was able to buy myself some awesome new school supplies, such as pencils, notebook paper, binders and a ruler. And guess what? All of it was made out of recycled material!

I know that all of you RecyCoolers are <mark>going</mark> to be super busy with school, homework and after-school activities, but please remember to always make time for recycling. Recycling your bottles and cans is so simple and easy to do, but the rewards are endless! Not only are you helping the environment and preserving natural resources, but you can also get cash for doing so. Remember, if a beverage container is labeled "CRV" (California Refund Value) you can take it to a recycling center and get cash for it. Here's to another great school year and remember ... recycle where you live, learn and play!







Coming Soon!

recyclerex.com

(Answers on page 2)

Bats, Bats, Everywhere!

Here's a fun way to reuse "CRV" (California Refund Value) plastic soda bottles.

Make a bat (or two) and decorate your yard for a spooky good time!

Materials:

- Two large black trash bags
- One 2-liter plastic soda bottle
- Black electrical tape
- Rubber bands
- White plastic lid (from a cottage cheese, sour cream or similar container)
- 2 medium-sized sticks
- 2 red fuzzy poms or red dot stickers
- Glue

Directions:

- 1. To make the bat's body, take one of the trash bags and wrap it around the plastic bottle. The bag will be bigger than the bottle. (You may need to cut some of the plastic bag if you have too much extra). Use the electrical tape to secure the bag around the bottle, but leave extra bag near the cap end of the bottle—this will be used to make the bat's ears.
- 2. With the extra baggage at the end of the bottle, create the bat's ears by gathering two small bunches of plastic (one on each side) and putting a rubber band around the base of each bunch.
- 3. Use the plastic lid to make the bat's teeth. Have an adult help you cut out tooth-shaped pieces from the lid. Use the tape to hold them in place.



- **4.** Glue or tape the poms (or stickers) onto the bat's head for his eyes.
- 5. Take the other trash bag and cut a slit from top to bottom. Lay the bag flat and cut two large bat wings out of it.
- 6. Take one of the wings and lay it flat. Place one of the sticks directly in the middle of the wing. Use electrical tape and tape the top half of the wing only to the stick (this will allow your wing
- to flap in the wind). Do the same thing for the other wing. After both wings are taped to the sticks, use the electrical tape to secure them to the sides of the bat.
- 7. Now comes the fun part: finding a new home for your bat. A tree or bush is a great place for your bat—just nestle him in among the branches. Make several bats and put them in different places in your yard—you'll have the battiest house on the block!

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THESE TWO DICTURES?

Answers:

- · Bin missing in front of Recycling Center
- Recycle center sign missing from top of shed
- Recycle symbol missing from bin in the back
- · Plastic bottle being thrown in recycling bin missing
- · Recycle Rex shoe laces missing

Congratulations

to all the RecyCool Club Graduates!

If this is the fourth newsletter you've received from me, you've officially graduated from my RecyCool Club! You can continue to learn about recycling, reducing, reusing and closing the loop on my website: www.conservation.ca.gov look for the "Kids Only" section. Please remember to recycle where you live, learn and play!



Closing the loop is buying products made from recycled material.

Recycling your beverage containers is a great thing to do, but it's only the beginning of the process. After they go to the recycling center, companies have to use them to make new products and people have to buy those new products.

When you buy products made from recycled material, you are CLOSING THE LOOP.

Here's how the cycle works . . .





State of California THE RESOURCES AGENCY Department of Conservation Division of Recycling 801 K Street, MS 17-01 Sacramento, CA 95814

Make your own Halloween costume

Hey kids! Fall is here and with it comes one of my favorite holidays . . . Halloween! I love Halloween, especially dressing up in a cool costume and pretending to be someone else for a day. Even though I love being a dinosaur, it's always fun to play make-believe once in while, isn't it? But do you know what is just as much fun as dressing up in a costume? Making your own costume! Yep, you can make your own costume instead of buying it and you know what? It will be way more fun! It's easy . . . just take a look around your house and you can find all sorts of neat things to make a cool costume with. You'll be surprised at how much you can do with some craft paint, construction paper and an old cardboard box. Invite some friends over and have a costume

 Cut up some old sheets and pillowcases to make a ghost, superhero or angel. Use glitter, markers and felt to decorate the costume.

making party! Here are a few ideas to

get those creative juices flowing:

 Gather some aluminum foil and cardboard and create a robot or space alien. Use paint and pipe cleaners to decorate the costume.

 Grab a sports jersey or uniform and dress up as your favorite athlete. If you don't have one of your own, borrow one from a sibling or friend. Garage sales are a great place to find used jerseys as well.

A clown costume is easy to put together and lots of fun too! Find some bright, mismatched clothing, such as baggy pants, ties and hats—the brighter, the better. Ask your parents if they have some old clothes you can borrow. Look around your house for items to use—for example, a lampshade would make a great hat. Add a little face paint or makeup and you'll be ready

• A large cardboard box can be turned into a variety of cool costumes. With a little cutting, taping and coloring, you can instantly turn yourself into a television set, traffic light, popcorn box or a tube of toothpaste. Just make sure you have an adult help you with any cutting!

for the circus in no time!

These are just a few suggestions of ways you can reuse items in your household to make a Halloween costume. Remember to stop and think before you throw something away—there's always a way to reuse something or to pass it along to someone else who can reuse it. You don't have to wait for Halloween to dress up either—you can throw a costume party anytime!